

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 05974 031912Z  
ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05974

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY PDEV AF WA GW  
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: WESTERN FIVE RESPONSE TO SWAPO  
REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES ON WALVIS BAY

REF: SECTO 3079

1. WE CONVEYED THE PROPOSED PUBLIC STATE-  
MENT ON WALVIS BAY OUTLINED REFTEL TO FOREIGN OFFICE  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MUELLER ON APRIL 3. (OFFICE  
DIRECTOR KREMER WAS ALSO PRESENT). MUELLER PROMISED TO  
EXAMINE THE PROPOSAL AND SEND APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS  
TO THE FRG MISSION IN NEW YORK ASAP. MUELLER NOTED,  
HOWEVER, THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER MIGHT WISH TO  
DISCUSS THE MATTER PERSONALLY WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN  
WASHINGTON BEFORE MAKING A FINAL DECISION.

2. CAUTIONING THAT ANYTHING HE SAID BEFORE STUDYING  
THE PROPOSAL WAS TENTATIVE AND UNOFFICIAL, MUELLER  
PICKED OUT TWO POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES. FIRST, HE SAID,  
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DECLARATION THAT WALVIS BAY SHOULD BE PART OF AN  
INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA WOULD BE A VERY "NEW STEP" FOR  
THE CONTACT GROUP. NEVERTHELESS, AFTER SOME  
CLARIFICATION OF THE TIMING OF THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT  
WAS MADE (SO THAT IT DID NOT APPEAR TO THE SAG THAT THE  
STATEMENT WAS A PRECONDITION TO SWAPO'S AGREEMENT), THE  
FORMULATION MIGHT BE ACCEPTED BY THE FIVE.

3. THE MAJOR DIFFICULTY, HOWEVER, WAS THE "UNDERSTANDING" OUTLINED IN PARA 3. MUELLER SAID THAT "IF I AM READING THE RECORD CORRECTLY" SOUTH AFRICA HAS NEVER AGREED THAT THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE WAS NEGOTIABLE. MUELLER RECALLED THAT BOTHA HAD TOLD THE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN NEW YORK THAT WALVIS BAY WAS NOT AT ALL AN ISSUE. MUELLER THEN ASKED IF WE HAD RECEIVED ANY PRIVATE CONCESSIONS TO THE CONTRARY. (WE TOOK THE QUESTION, NOTING THAT WE WERE NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH CONCESSIONS.)

4. MUELLER NOTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER, AFTER HIS MEETING WITH NYERERE LAST MONTH, HAD ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO SEEK A WAY OUT OF THE WALVIS BAY DILEMMA. AS YET THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. GENSCHER, HE SAID, WAS CERTAIN TO BE INTERESTED IN THIS LATEST PROPOSAL AND HE PROMISED TO BRING IT TO THE MINISTER'S ATTENTION ASAP.

5. COMMENT: MUELLER WAS EXTREMELY BOTHERED BY THE REFERENCE TO AN "UNDERSTANDING" IN PARA 3 REFTEL. HE QUESTIONED WHETHER THIS WAS, IN FACT, TRUE, OR HAD HE MISSED SOMETHING ALONG THE LINE. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SAY SO, WE SUSPECT MUELLER IS ALSO CONCERNED THAT THE US HAS GOTTEN PRIVATE CONCESSIONS FROM SOUTH AFRICA OF

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WHICH THE FIVE ARE NOT AWARE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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